

California Recreational Trails Committee
Meeting
Oroville State Recreation Area
May 14, 2005

Chair Mercurio called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM

- Agenda approved by unanimous vote to include the additions of electing new Committee Chair and two Committee Vice-Chairs.

I. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff

Members Present:

Jim Chapman, John Mercurio, Jeannie Gillen, David Koehler, Jim Hasenauer and Ron Griffin

Absent Members:

Jim Collins

Staff present:

Ken McKowen, Executive Secretary, Statewide Trails
Nina Gordon, Chief, Planning Division
Adrianne Tillis, Secretary, Planning Division
Steve Feazel, Lake Oroville Sector Superintendent
Tom McBride, District Trail Coordinator

II. Minutes approval from November 2005 meeting

a. Approval by unanimous vote

b. Election of New Chair and two Vice Chairs

- Jim Chapman nominated Jeannie Gillen to position of Chair – approved by unanimous vote.
- Jeannie Gillen nominated Jim Chapman for North Vice Chair – approved by unanimous vote.
- Jim Chapman nominated Jim Hasenauer for south Vice Chair – approved by unanimous vote.

III. Reports

- a. **State Park Director's Report:** Presented by Nina Gordon, Chief, Planning Division
- The Forest of Nisene Marks multi-use trail issue has been settled.
 - In March there was the approval of a large acquisition of the Soka property in the Santa Monica Mountains. This property will be co-managed between National Parks and CSP. CSP will manage approximately 108 acres of the property. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was involved in the acquisition.
 - Stanford Mansion: Gala opening July 11, 2005.
 - Wireless network WYFI –State Parks has an agreement to provide wireless network to 85 state parks where wireless access is greatly needed. State park visitors can access the state park site for free.
 - The Statewide Trails Unit is working on an agreement with the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Conservation Corps to construct more Coastal Trail segments with State Parks.
 - Central Valley Vision: Presented a summary of the Vision plan highlighting the need for more recreational opportunities for the Central Valley to keep pace with growing and diverse populations.

Statewide Trails Manager's Report

- Trail Days was started about 30 years ago by Tony Look and took place this year in conjunction with Earth Day in April 23rd and 24th. Proclamation signed by the Governor to commemorate the day. Statewide Trails Unit took over promoting the event this year and had over 2,400 people participate.
- There was no California Trails and Greenways conference held this year. Planning is underway for the conference to resume the first weekend in May 2006. The location will be somewhere near Woodland Hills or Santa Monica. Riding and hiking opportunities will be available at a nearby location; Malibu SP or the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area. Workshops will be held prior to the conference.
- Ken will be retiring soon with this being his last meeting to serve as the Executive Secretary of the CRTC.

b. **RTC Chair Report**

- Presented Ken McKowen with a resolution recognizing Ken's outstanding service, leadership, dedication to the CRTC and wishes him well....."Hope to see him on the trail".
- Motion for approval by all. Approved by unanimous vote.

c. **RTC Members Reports**

- **Ron Griffin** – Produced a video of the Horse/bike/hike conflict resolution workshop which took place the day before the meeting. Ron is will to make available in DVD or VHS formats to those who wish copies.
- **Jim Hasenauer** – Jim brought up the topic of the U.S. Forest Service inventorying and designating use of trails and a discussion ensued among Committee members. He stated that non motorized users had concerns regarding designating routes. This type of planning is the future of trail use decisions. Members discussed the availability of data from the USFS, trying to get layers of data on GIS. Jim also stated that IMBA has a just signed Memorandum of Understanding with the National Parks Service, to go along with the previous agreements with BLM and the USFS. It allows use of bikes on service roads and opens possibility of bikes on single track trails. He also mentioned that the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism (on which he serves) is a forum to discuss joint projects and provide seamless flow of information to recreation users. The Roundtable will be holding a conference on May 25th and 26th in Los Angeles Jim reported that a visitor center may be planned as part of the recent acquisition of the Soka University property in the Santa Monica mountains (a joint acquisition with the National Park Service, State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy). Jim also reported that Griffith Park in Los Angeles is under going a master plan.
- **David Koehler** – San Joaquin River Center-Linking multi use trail in open for 3 yrs now. Opened another loop trail. Trail greatly increased visitation to the River Center. Links natural and cultural issues to the river.
- **Jeannie Gillen** - Jeannie- Commended Oroville SRA for the horse camp. She also stated that she started a Trails Day event in her area and she has formed a riding club in her community. She was at de Anza Historic Trail meeting, and is helping to form a non profit foundation and will be one of the founding members. She attended a meeting in Pasadena and a pre-dedication of a portion of the de Anza trail which connects Calabasas to Las Virgines Road through the new acquisition. California Trails and Greenways Foundation is interested in sponsoring a Central California trial workshop. Jeannie reminded the Committee that National trails day is the first Saturday in June. She also reported that the fire at Cuyamaca Horse camp resulted in devastating fires to the horse camps and

the park. Mentioned that last October thousands of letters were sent to the Governor to save San Onofre State Beach from the potential impacts of a multi-lane toll road. Dan Silver, the Executive Director of the Environmental Habitat League is striving to support this cause and save public land. Jeannie compliments staff regarding the re-opening of the closed trails at Morro Bay SP.

- **Jim Chapman-** Jim Chapman reported that the USFS is working with GIS mapping in the Susanville area and the Plumas National Forest regarding public access and impacts to land. The forest is currently opened to the public but portions may be closed unless people go through the process to keep open. Inventory to the public lands. He wants to look at the maps when they become available. Jim Chapman showed a map of the Lassen Back County Trail Loop. He explained the trails and how they have defined the inventory. His understanding is that 108 miles are being prepared for multi use. Jim requested that the USFS should be invited to the next meeting to discuss their process including costs. He would like to promote local, state and federal activity and partnerships. Jim stated that the BLM has a different view point of the trails and that we should have BLM and State Parks meet together. Jim displayed a Caltrans booklet displaying riding opportunities for the recreational user. Jim stated that he would like to see recreational trails in the newly acquired State Park property in Sutter Buttes and have the RTC be involved in the trail planning. Jim brought up the controlled burning process at Lassen National Park lasted 120 days. It became unhealthy to be outside. Jeannie discussed the possibility of a call committee to inform people of when the burning will take place. Jim Chapman discussed the distribution of bonds and stated he heard that the State Parks would need to add one camp site per day to keep pace with the growth of the public. Form a committee to meet with CSP and political staff to assure that trails like roads get the funding they deserve from future bond initiatives. Jim suggested riding the horses, bikes and hike around the capitol to get the point across. Trails, like roads, are access!!
- Jeannie Gillen mentioned that the NPS is working on getting trail information associated in some way with Mapquest and asked Jim Chapman if Caltrans would be willing to do the same. Jim would be willing to approach the subject with Caltrans District 2.

d. Subcommittee Reports

- **RTC Awards Subcommittee:** John Mercurio & Jeannie Gillen
 - ❖ The award will be given to an individual that, on a statewide basis, has contributed to the cause of trails. The recipient must have been involved in the trail community for over 7 years and cannot have received another prominent award related to trails. The award should be signed by the Governor. The awards committee will consist of five members; CRTC Member, Jeannie Gillen; CSP Staff Person, Nina Gordon; Trail industry/nonprofit, Holy Van Houten (Bay Area Ridge Trail Council); Trail Agency Representative, Kate Bickert (Trails for Everyone); At Large Member, Charlie Willard. Kick-off award possibly at May 2006 Trails Conference.
- **User Conflicts Subcommittee:** Jeannie Gillen & Jim Hasenauer
 - ❖ Described the importance of hands-on, in the field demonstrations of trail etiquette. Shared the experiences of the workshop at Malibu Creek State Park on the Tapia Spur Trail and the workshop held the previous day at Lake Oroville SRA. . Bob Gage (Region 2 CHSA President), participated in the workshop at Lake Oroville. There have been many requests for presentations of the workshop and it will be presented at the Trails and Greenways Conference in May of 2006.
- **Long Distance Trails Subcommittee:** Jeannie Gillen & Jim Chapman
 - ❖ In fall of 2004 the Governor signed a bill which created the Sierra Nevada Conservancy which consists of a 13 member board. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is looking at funding to identify specific parcels to help secure the LDTC. Sierra Nevada

IV. New Business

a. Griffith Park Master Plan:

Jim Hasenauer, Draft report just issued. All trails within Griffith Park are dirt roads; there are no single track trails within the system. The mountain bike community participated in the planning process however the draft report still recommends that there be no mountain bike use on the trails. Jim Hasenauer would like the RTC to send a letter to the City of Los Angeles in support of multi-use trails. Chair Mercurio said a letter of multi-use could be possible. The comments end on Sept 1, 2005. Jim Chapman asked what connectivity opportunities exist from the Park. Jim Hasenauer stated there are no dirt trail connections only connections to the proposed Los Angeles River paved system and to private equestrian facilities in adjacent Burbank.

- ❖ **Lynn Brown Comments:** She served on the Griffith Park Bicycle Advisory Committee for three years, equestrian representative to the Park. The exclusion of bikes from dirt trails is a City-wide ordinance. There are 26 miles of bike paths in Griffith Park. The trail planning issues at Griffith Park are not State business; it is a local issue and has nothing to do with state trail issues. Bicycles have 2000 miles of trails with the City where equestrians have only 50 miles or 2.5 percent for equestrian use. Mandeville Farm Mountain Bike Park was purchased for the use of mountain bike trail use at the cost of \$5 million. There are 15 thousand acres of open space for mountain bike use within the Los Angeles city boundaries. The City spent last year \$500,000 to maintain the dirt trails at Mandeville Park. She stressed the appropriate use in appropriate places. There is an entire economy built around equestrian use in the area. Mountain bikers don't have a right to enjoy their sport at the expense of others.
- ❖ David Koehler motioned to write a letter to the City of LA in support of multi-use trails or areas where mountain bikes can be ridden within Griffith Park, the motion was seconded by Jim Hasenauer.
- ❖ Jim Chapman comments on Lynn Brown definition of multi-use that it was not created by the mountain bike community but has been in use by federal land managers for many years. Multi-use promotes open opportunities to all users.
- ❖ Motion to send a letter from the RTC passes by unanimous vote.

b. Congressman Thompson's North Coast Wilderness bill:

- ❖ Jim Hasenauer: California wilderness bill could move early this summer or late fall. The concerns of trail community are that Wilderness would eliminate access to trails by mountain bicyclists and Wilderness regulations would make it hard to maintain trails for equestrians. International Mountain Bicycling Association and Backcountry Horsemen of California have expressed a concern with the proposed bill.
- ❖ Jim Chapman: The RTC needs to write a letter to encourage Congressman Thompson to make sure trail opportunities are preserved. The letter should identify the ramifications to recreation tourism as a replacement economy. Good opportunity to communicate with our federal counterparts. The CRTC should write a letter to Congressman Thompson with a copy to Congressman Pombo stating the potential ramifications of the Bill to recreation access.
- ❖ Jim Chapman: This bill could have strong ramification with the USFS and BLM.
- ❖ Jim Hasenauer: Recommended that the RTC submit a proposal to expand trail use within the wilderness act.

- ❖ David Koehler: Does not support the bill, would like more information regarding the Wilderness Act and the potential impacts to recreation where it is applied.
- ❖ Jim Chapman: The issue is that some of the trails are in the way of the forest and the natural surroundings. The progress of the Thompson bill should be on the next meetings agenda.
- ❖ Jim Hasenauer: Favors the wilderness act of 1964. Designating wilderness is important. The proposed letter should suggest that the USFS find a way to preserve wilderness areas while allowing recreational access.
- ❖ Jeannie Gillen: The equestrian trails were not rebuilt in Yosemite National Park after the fires and equestrians lost the use of trails there.
- ❖ Motion to prepare letter to Congressman Thompson by Jim Hasenauer. Call for letter carried by a vote of 4 to 2.

V. Local Trail Program Presentation

a. Oroville State Recreation Area Trail Program Presentation

- ❖ Steve Feazel: Provided an overview of the Trails program at Lake Oroville. Lake Oroville expanded from 16 miles of trail to 55 miles. He often gets letters from the public around the State regarding the great trails at the Park. He is appreciative of the men and women who had vision to increase trails in the park. Just received some grants for trails. A Trails Master Plan is being prepared for Lake Oroville.

b. California State Horseman's Assoc Presentation

Bob Gage is the current president of the CSHA, member of Region 2 which serves Butte and Tehama Counties. The association was incorporated in 1952. Mr. Gage presented the history of the association along with its many programs. The CHSA became involved in the region because some vital trails were lost to equestrian use. John Keys is the vice chair of the trails program for Region 2. The association has developed guidelines for trail use and is willing to working with the varied state agencies.

www.californiastatehorseman.com

VI. Public Comments:

- **Jim Haagen-Smit:** Thank you to the RTC for all the great work. Not a lot of land around the reservoir but supports a diverse trail system.
- **Annette Kolkey:** Representing Equestrian Trail Riders of Oroville. FERC has final jurisdiction with regards to recreation at Lake Oroville. project. Stated that other units within the California State Park system have user specific trail systems. She stated that the trail impact analysis prepared by EDAW was flawed and should not be considered in the evaluation of trail use at Lake Oroville.
- **Lyle Wright:** Thanks to the CRTC for their work. Unfortunate situation to have a Federal agency without experience in trail issues attempting to direct CSP. Encourages the RTC to sift through the tons of debris before advising California land managers.
- **Susan Wright:** Thanks the committee for having the meeting in Oroville and for all the good work.
- **Janine Cody:** Re-licensing representative for the Oroville Pageant Riders. The Pageant Riders incorporated in May 1949 and has non profit status. An integral part of the community for the last 56 years. Strongly support retaining the equestrian and hiking use designations on the Dan Bebe, Loafer Loop, Roy Rogers and Kelly Ridge Trails. Preserve the integrity of the trails set up in 1963 for the equestrian and hiking community. Favors additional mountain bike trails.
- **Joann Mathews:** Thanks the CRTC for their efforts. Tells about multi-use experiences here at Oroville and other places. She introduces her horses to people and encourages multi use.
- **Kathy Haagen-Smit** Thanks the CRTC for coming and all of their efforts. The conflict resolution workshop was very informative.
- **Robert Winsinger:** We need to preserve trails and multi use that needs to be protected. Shared experiences on trail issues. Trails are used by handicapped people and children.
- **Kathy Hodges:** FERC and DWR are responsible for providing recreation at Lake Oroville as per the Final Environmental Assessment. Conversion of existing trails to be shared use not warranted. Study did indicate a need to add mountain biking opportunities to the equestrian and hiking trails. Supports diverse and opportunities assessed with safety.
- **Kathleen Lyons:** Mountain biker, equestrian and hiker. Supports separate trails.
- **Letter from Ronald Davis:** Supports separate trail designations and more trails.

VII. Next Meeting:

Potentially in August near Eureka.

Meeting Adjourned by John Mercurio at 1:10 pm.